

# Montana State Legislature

**Exhibit Number: 27**

**This exhibit is in  
regards to HB808 ,  
It contains several  
different types of  
materials to  
numerous to scan.  
Therefore only 10  
pages have been  
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Historical Society  
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there.**

**Public Testimony in Support of FY 2008-2009 DPHHS Budget as Approved  
by the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee for Health and Human Services  
March 5, 2007**

Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee, my name is Linda Tracy. I am the Executive Director of the Montana Child Care Resource and Referral Network. We are a nonprofit organization working with our member agencies and other partners to build a diverse, high quality care and education system accessible to all Montana families with children from birth through school age.

I am also a member of the Montana Early Childhood Advisory Council, but I am not speaking on behalf of MECAC today.

Last week, 353 people from child care resource and referral agencies, and the working families and child care providers they serve across the state signed statements urging you to restore \$4.17 million to the child care budget.

Together, the 354 of us urge you to restore funding to annually update child care scholarship eligibility to 150% of the federal poverty index and allow a few more children to receive scholarships.

For low income families, these scholarships can mean the difference between safe, quality child care that gets children ready to succeed in school, and unregulated, illegal care. For example, the costs for a baby in licensed care and rent alone are \$522 more a year than the gross income of a single parent working at minimum wage.

Together the 354 of us also urge you to restore funding to annually adjust to local market rates, how much the state reimburses small child care businesses who serve children on scholarships. These businesses already survive on very slim margins. Annual market rate surveys and reimbursement adjustments also assure children with scholarships have access to 75% of the quality child care in their regions.

And, finally, I have one more voice to add from Linda Smith, a former, but still passionate Montanan. In the interest of your time, I will only read portions of her letter.

On behalf of 355 of us, I urge you to restore \$4.17 million to the child care budget. Thank you for your consideration.

I urge Legislators to restore to the budget the \$4.17 million found in PL 20016, as included in the Governor's budget and previously approved by the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee for Health and Human Services. Failure to include this "present law adjustment" will create significant hardships for a system that is already besieged and will significantly impact every community's ability to provide child care for working families and their young children. These cuts also threaten small businesses in small communities across Montana.

Signed Brenda Hergott Ramsay 782-5897  
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Joanna Krause Butte MT 406-494-0088  
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Laura VanHemert Butte MT 406-782-5744  
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Miana Chatreand Butte 494-5688  
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Signed Sharon L. Lofftus Whitehall 287-3408  
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Carol Woods Butte 782-6266  
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Signed Kayla Swan Butte MT 406 498-7942  
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Signed Laura McElerny Butte, MT (406) 282-2287  
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Beta J. Laniacy Butte, MT (406) 723-2245  
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Miranda Weller Dillon (406) 925-2415  
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Donnell Hill Jerome (406) 563-5322  
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Wayne Kellist Butte (406) 491-8386  
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Beverly P. Sloan Butte 505-5796  
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Signed Jonny Crocker Butte 494-7813  
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Signed Quana Kinnard Butte MT 782-5170  
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Signed Dana Ryan Butte, MT 723-9322  
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Lynette Retief Butte 406/23-3889  
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Susan Mayurek Butte 782-1413  
Name Hometown Phone Number



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Signed Cassandra Houland Butte mt 491-1581  
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Barbara Perle Butte, MT 406-782-8514  
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Signed Christy Williamson Butte, MT 782-0455  
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Signed Catherine Herr Butte 593-11063  
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Nelson P. Black Anaconda 563-6948  
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Signed Quandie D. Moom Butte MT 406-781-5826  
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Shelly Fischer Butte, MT 782-0450  
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Signed Amanda Ricci Butte 560-0871  
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Signed Carrie Powell Butte 723-5057  
Name Hometown Phone Number